

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

MOST ADMIRER



In this Dec. 19, 2008 file photo, President-elect Barack Obama speaks at a news conference in Chicago. Obama will inherit two wars and the worst economic conditions in three generations when he takes the oath of office on Jan. 20.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

SPORTS NEWS

CHRISTMAS PRESENCE



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant grabs a rebound against the Boston Celtics during the second half in an NBA basketball game on Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 92-83.

See *Sports Today*

The trendiest coffee on Aruba

Segafredo opens at South Beach Mall



PALM BEACH – Last Sunday, right across from the High Rise Hotels. how to make the best coffees. Segafredo very quietly opened its General Manager Maarten Alberts has doors in the new South Beach Mall, trained his staff to utter perfection on

Continued on Next Page

Politicians' pension reflects "bad timing," says Bijleveld



WILLEMSTAD -- Dutch State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-

Schouten (CDA) lashed out at Curacao's Island Council after it approved a generous pension

scheme for its members and commissioners which is higher than the market norm. She commented on this issue at the Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles,

where she was meeting with Antillean Finance Minister Ersilia de Lannooy (PNP) to execute the arrangements on the debt restructuring.

Continued on Page 6

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RENAISSANCE
MALL

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Segafredo opens at South Beach Mall



Continued from Front Page
 Segafredo will be opened from 6AM for the early starters until midnight. They will serve you the best Segafredo coffees during the morning to get you going, during lunch you will find fresh panini sandwiches, pizza, lasagna and salads. Night time at Segafredo's promises special coffees, martini's, long drinks and



of course beer on one of the trendiest locations on the island. Congratulations on the opening from Aruba Today! □
 ~Photos by JJ~



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Antillean politicians criticise Dutch PM



DEN HAAG, The Netherlands - Politicians from the Netherlands Antilles have criticised Dutch Prime Minister Jan

Peter Balkenende. The prime minister is due to attend a Round Table Conference in Curaçao on Monday to discuss the new independent status of

two of the islands that make up the Netherlands Antilles, Curaçao and St Maarten. Former Netherlands Antilles prime minister Don Martina has accused Mr Balkenende of abusing his power. In an open letter published in the Antillean newspaper Amigoe, Mr Martina writes that the Netherlands is not concerned with the rights and interests of the people of Curaçao.

He also accuses the Netherlands of contravening administrative law by linking agreements to write off Curaçao's debts to better law

enforcement on the island. Opposition leader Jopi Abraham on Bonaire has also criticised Mr Balkenende for not inviting the opposition to

the Round Table Conference. He says the Netherlands is making yet another serious mistake in dealing with its former colonies. □



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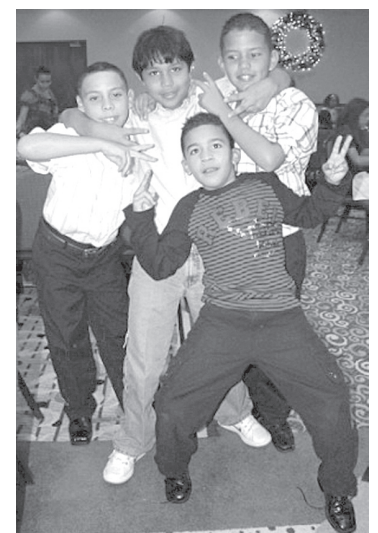


Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa hosts Pastor Kranwinkel School Celebration



PALM BEACH – More than 300 school children hailing from 12 school divisions, under the guidance of 12 teachers, congregated in the Grand Caribbean Ballroom for the year-end celebration, also including the administration with the school director at the

helm. Robert Maduro and some of his musicians of famed Alma Folklorico added a very special seasonal touch to the gathering earning the musicians a standing ovation after each song, while the kids feasted on ham and turkey holiday platters, prepared by the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa culinary team. The party was very nicely organized with raffles for a cell phone, which the kids enjoyed very much. □



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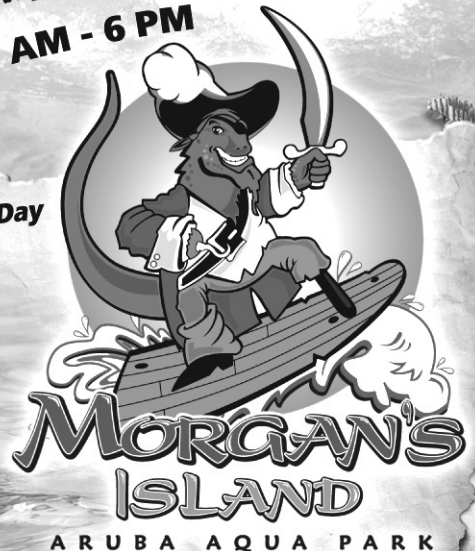
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Saturday: Simply Perfect - Prime Rib

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LagunaRestaurantAruba.com

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MiraSoloAruba.com

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Our outdoor lounge perched atop cascading waterfalls and open to sun, stars and cooling breezes. Liquid pleasures await...premium vodkas, scotches, cognacs, and tequilas - or choose from our Martini Madness menu. The place to start, end or spend the evening!

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BIJEVELD

Continued from Front Page

"The timing is totally wrong," Bijleveld said, pointing out that there were so many things in Curacao like education and healthcare that need money urgently.

She said she had an uneasy feeling about the pension scheme and had to say something about it. "This is totally incomprehensible in the Netherlands."

Curacao's Finance Commissioner Mike Willem defended the decision by saying that he was a very tight-fisted person, but the pensions were not well-arranged.

Bijleveld indicated that she understood that the scheme had to be adjusted sometime, because there were Island Council members paying premiums without their pension being well-arranged. However, she said she "cannot understand why it had to happen right now."

Bijleveld and De Lannooy signed a confirmation of the arrangements made regarding the debt restructuring. On December 11, the day after the financial supervision by the Financial Supervision Committee became effective, the Netherlands deposited 464 million guilders (203 million euros) in one of the earmarked accounts opened at the Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles on November 10, 2007.

This amount is for the settlement of the payment arrears of the Central Government, Curacao and St. Maarten.

As a result of agreements in the Final Declaration of November 2, 2006, the Transition Agreement (February 12, 2007) and the government agreement entered on August 28, 2007, the Netherlands has reserved approximately 1.7 billion euros for the debt restructuring.

The debt restructuring has two components.

Approximately 240 million euros is allocated for the payments arrears, while the remaining amount will be used for the debt payments plus interest.

A total of 27 million euros was already deposited in an account of the Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles in November 2007 to settle the payments arrears for the BES islands.

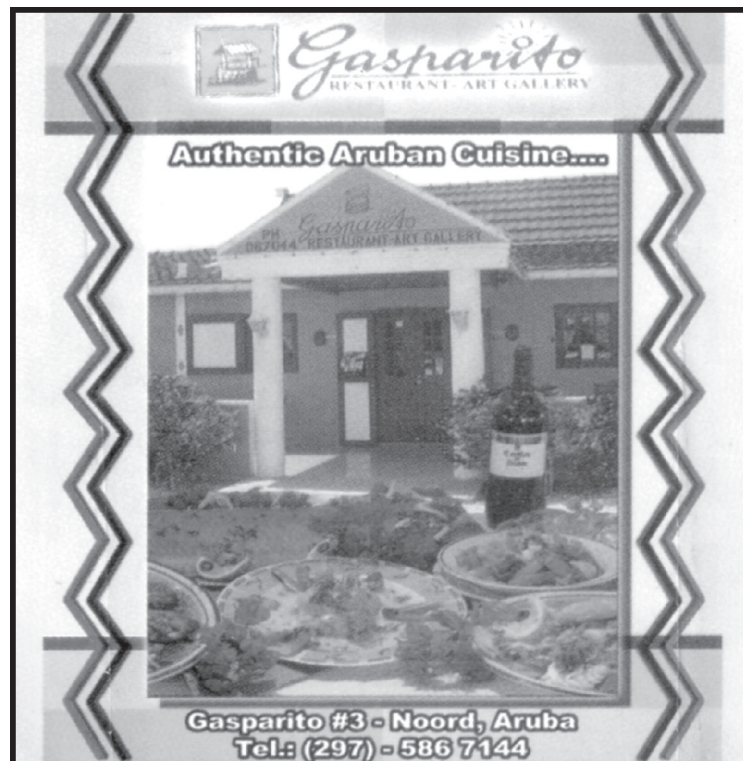
The debt restructuring can begin because the financial supervision became effective on December 10. The execution will take place in reality as soon as the accountants check the payment.

Arrangements were made with the Central Government and Curacao for the taking over of the debt-title (loans and so on). St. Maarten has no debts based on loans, only payment arrears.

De Lannooy said, "There are Dutchmen who really love us. Sometimes you hear criticism by people who wonder whether the Dutchmen love the Antilles. In the state secretary's case, I can really say that she loves us. Also the Antilles loves Bijleveld."

Bijleveld extended her appreciation (a big smile) to De Lannooy for her friendly words. Also Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage praised Bijleveld for her dedication to the Antilles.

Central Bank director Emsley Tromp was very pleased with the cooperation with the Netherlands. "The restructuring of the Antillean debts has been a long and difficult process. This is a milestone." □



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ChinoLatino at The Village is now open!



PALM BEACH - Dragons, ChinoLatino, the newest of Aruba's new restaurants. Located at The Village across from the Radisson Resort at the hi-rise strip, it is the first restaurant to open at The Village. ChinoLatino is the brainchild of dream team

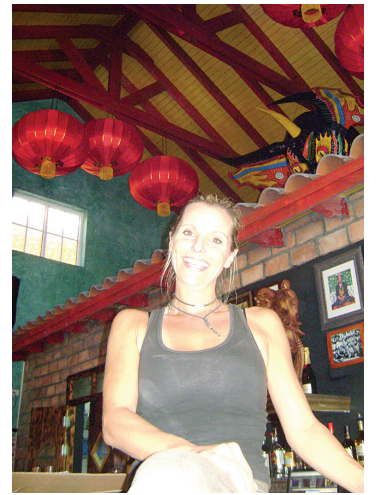
Harry and Joop, and, judging from the many appreciative comments of the early guests, it is once again a smash hit.

The focus of the restaurant lies on presentation and service of the curiously stunning dishes. These are traditionally Chinese or Latino, but with a great new twist. The cosy seating arrangements and

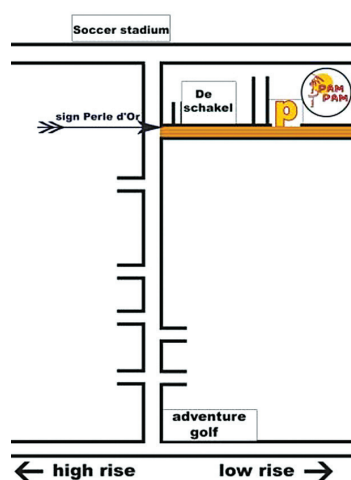
the inviting bar make for an intimate setting.

On Christmas Day ChinoLatino's bar was officially declared open; on the 26th the restaurant opened its doors.

Photos show the staff of ChinoLatino working their tails off to get the place in working order. □



Experience authentic regional ambiance every Friday evening at Pam-Pam Café



Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably prices snacks (10.50 in Aruban florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among

other choices) and cocktails are available throughout the evening. From 11 PM until closing time, Pam-Pam offers a special on top shelf whiskey for only 6 Aruban



florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced, and main courses, (25) which are priced between \$10 / \$22, include salad, and a hearty serving of side orders.

Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of

preparation, which presently, in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance.

When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com Phone; 5877710 or 5932660 □

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Jolly Pirates welcomes backs more old friends Repeat Offenders Wanda, Debbie Sparky and Bill

MooMba Beach- Captured aboard the Jolly Pirates was adventure and excitement on the sunny afternoon this foursome returned aboard the Jolly Pirates Teak Schooner. On their Jolly Pirates cruise, it was a newlywed couple and some new found friends along with the crew who got the party started. "Watching young couples dance as the sun sets", Wanda told us, "was a blast"! Wanda, Debbie, Sparky and Bill, Jolly Pirate veterans; join Jolly Pirates sunset sails often. Sitting on her mooring beside the Marriott Resort in her Caribbean Playground the 85ft Jolly Pirate with her billowing white sails is a top choice for Aruba's guests seeking a truly extraordinary sailing trip. When we asked the foursome what it is that keeps the foursome returning to the Jolly Pirates Sunset Sail year after year, they told us, "Once you've tried it you'll keep coming back!" Although they rated their Jolly Pirate experience their favorite, the foursome also enjoyed an ATV outing and golfing at Divi Links.

If you want to enjoy a Jolly Pirate experience for yourself, Jolly Pirates Snorkel and Sunset Sail tickets can be purchased at the Jolly Pirates souvenir shop at MooMba Beach located between the Holiday Inn and Marriott Hotels. Use the Aruba Today coupon to enjoy all the entertainment of a Jolly Pirates cruise at an extra value. The entire crew is ready and waiting to welcome you aboard! Tel: 586-8107



Only the highest quality will do Nobushi makes sushi like no one else

PASEO HERENCIA - Nobushi brings to Aruba the finest sushi. If you are in a hurry, go somewhere else. At Nobushi, every single piece gets the love and attention it needs from the professional Sushi chefs. The chefs specialize in Aruba Exotic Sushi and Asian Cuisine with unique flavors second to none. The ever so friendly staff will gladly explain the different dishes and specials to you, and help you with unique food & wine pairings. Nobushi Sushi Bar & Asian Cuisine features a variety sashimi, sushi rolls, chicken, fish and meat entrees that will enlighten your senses. Nobushi is located in the Paseo Herencia Mall across the Holiday Inn Resort.



For reservations & more information please call: 586-2211 or ask your concierge.

Red Sail Sports Aruba for all sail cruises

Sail with Red Sail Sports Aruba Sunset along Aruba's scenic Coast-line

PALM BEACH - Red Sail Sports' catamaran will take you on an unforgettable journey: the Mexican Dinner Sail. Your trip includes a Live Mariachi Band, Mexican Food and an open bar with Tequila, Coronitas and Margaritas. The Mexican Party Sails on Friday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Aruba's trade winds provide the ideal conditions for sailing aboard Red Sail Sports' top quality, luxurious catamarans.



Set sail and join Red Sail Sports Half Day Luncheon Snorkel Sail or the romantic Sunset Sail. Red Sail Sports also offers a Dinner Sail which combines a sail along Aruba's scenic coastline and a spectacular view of the sunset with a tantalizing buffet catered by award-winning chefs. If you want to discover Aruba's underwater world, be sure to get in touch with Red Sail Sports. Learn to dive in one day with the Discover Scuba Dive Course, get PADI certified or join us on our daily one and two tank dives. Red Sail Sports is Aruba's lead-in dive and water-sports operator. Activity desks are located at the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Resorts and on Renaissance Island.



To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsail-aruba.com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.



Casa Tua makes the best pizza. Period.

Casa Tua draws a crowd of local and not-so-local folks who can't seem to get enough of the pizza and the place. There's almost always a wait here, even if you have reservations, so place yourself at the bar with the smell of brick oven pizzas wafting to other tables, and knowing that at some point, that bliss will be yours.

Al fresco dining is designed with a chicly rustic feel. The atmosphere is cool and relaxed, "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

With a Sicilian-style thin crust, dripping with cheese and fresh-made tomato sauce, this pizza comes with a variety of toppings in the meat and veggie categories. Pasta dishes, full Italian meals like Lasagne and veal Osso Buco, fresh salads and rich desserts are also on the menu.



thin crust recipe was handed down by an Italian chef, known locally as "the pizza master", in the French student city of Montpellier in 1969. This recipe has been perfected over the years to such a point where Casa Tua is known on the island these days for the best pizza. Period.

Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm.
Casa Tua Downtown open from 11am to 11pm, on Sunday from 5pm to 11pm.
For more information or reservations
Palm Beach: 586 8470
Downtown: 588 5695



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SLOTS OPEN 9 AM
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POKER ROOM 5 PM

At the Crystal Theater

“Havana Dance,” is the hottest Cuban show on the island



ORANJESTAD - The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent “Havana Dance” explodes on stage with a thrilling mix of Latin & Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy, contemporary Cuban

dance.

“Havana Dance” is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. The show delivers a purely Cuban spectacle, with a cast of 12 female ballerinas, 4 male dancers, 2 singers and 3 acrobats, performing a fresh program accompanied by live Cuban music performed on stage by a genuine Cuban orchestra, consisting of 5 professional Cuban musicians. This live dance AND live music combination as seen in our pictures, is ‘first of its kind’ on the island.

While the greater part of the “Havana Dance” review enjoys predominantly Cuban flavor, the show is graced with a truly unique Caribbean choreography, and many tropical touches. “Havana Dance” unfolds on a two-tiered stage, with entrances and exits to and off the arena at different heights, which presents a



new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set “Havana Dance” apart from any other cabaret. Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedentedly-successful seven-year run with his previous “Let’s Go Latin” review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle.

Tickets for “Havana Dance” are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.-

Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased

at the concierge’s desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. Other ticket vendors include the De Palm Tours and Pelican Adventure Activity Centers at the resorts. A special dinner & show package is also available in conjunction with the L.G. Smith’s Steak & Chop House for US\$89.- per person. For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357. Don’t miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of “Havana Dance.” □



“Aruhiba” Aruba’s homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called ‘Aruhiba’. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of



“Aruhiba” cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi’s dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo ‘Aruhiba’ and ‘Made in Aruba’. Petrochi considers ‘Aruhiba’ a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba

Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill from 8am to 8pm. Closed on Sunday.

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SITE Sets a Course to Paradise!

Aruba to Host Society of Incentive and Travel Executives' 2009 International Conference

ORANJESTAD - Aruba is thrilled to announce that the Society of Incentive Travel Executives (SITE) has selected the island paradise as the host country for the 2009 International Conference, set for December 3-6. The event will bring together the top minds in incentive travel, a multi-billion dollar global industry, to one of the



Caribbean's most celebrated destinations. Aruba promises to be the "host with the most" as it welcomes hundreds of delegates from around the world for three days of educational sessions, vendor showcases, roundtables, networking events, gala dinners and much more. The 2009 International Conference will be held at the two official host hotels, The Westin Aruba Resort and the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa. Securing this significant conference comes at a perfect time for the destination as Aruba is enjoying increased interest from around the globe. Not only has the island recently undergone over \$350 million in upgrades, expansions and renovations across all aspects of the tourism sector, but arrivals from the U.S. in 2007 were also up 3.27% over the previous year. While worldwide arrivals also saw a remarkable increase with an extraordinary 8.56% spike over 2006, with 753,816 visitors from around the world making Aruba their destination of choice in 2007. "SITE's membership is rich with innovators who greatly influence not only the evolution of the incentive industry, but also the business outcomes of client organizations," said SITE President Padraic Gilligan. "The SITE International Conference is a superlative forum where professionals from around the world gather to share insights that help them achieve professional goals, surpass client expectations, and have a meaningful and positive impact on economies of destination cities around the world."

Continued on Next Page

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WHERE: POKER ROOM at the Radisson

**All prize money goes back to the players.
And, we verify all Buy-Ins.**



TOURNAMENT IS LIMITED TO 80 PLAYERS, SO SIGN UP NOW IN THE POKER ROOM!



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Thursday December 18



VS



Ravens vs. Cowboys
Saturday December 20



VS

Packers vs. Bears
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VS

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“We were thrilled to hear of SITE’s decision to make Aruba its host location for the 2009 International Conference,” said Minister of Tourism and Transportation, Edison Briesen. “The incentive travel industry is an important one for our island and we are looking forward to showcasing the many things that sets Aruba apart from the rest of the Caribbean region throughout the conference. We are confident that SITE’s commitment to bringing together the most influential minds in this field, coupled with Aruba’s dedication to delivering an unmatched travel experience to all our guests, is a recipe for success.”

These principals of community, leadership and growth guide SITE’s vision — as well as its commitment to selecting distinct locales for its own events. Aruba, situated in the southern Caribbean, is a tropical paradise that enjoys year-round near perfect weather, less than 20 inches of rainfall annually, extraordinary hotels and resorts, over 200 incredible international restaurants, and an extremely rich heritage. Arubans, renowned for their warmth and hospitality and

known as the friendliest in the Caribbean region, proudly showcase the island’s cultural and environmental diversity, and are equally devoted to respecting and preserving the island’s pristine marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

“Because Aruba is, without question, one of the top incentive travel destinations in the Caribbean, it is fitting that SITE, the foremost professional association devoted to the incentive travel market, would choose our island as the host for its 2009 International Conference,” said Myrna Jansen-Feliciano, managing director for the Aruba Tourism Authority. “The decision makers in the incentive travel industry will experience a successful event as a result of our strong public/private partnership that makes planning a meeting so much easier and Aruba’s well-known hospitality.”

“Aruba is ideal for SITE’s constituency,” said SITE CEO Brenda Anderson. “Sharing experiential knowledge is imperative for incentive and travel professionals who wish to enhance expertise and better understand this worldwide industry. Aruba offers a unique setting;



it’s a model for promoting economic development with a keen eye toward cultural and environmental sensitivity — both of which are top-of-mind for SITE members and the organizations they work with to implement programs that drive business success.”



“I am really proud of the fact that our entire destination has gotten behind securing the SITE Conference for Aruba,” said Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association President and CEO, Rob Smith. “What could be a better investment than bringing the world’s



professional meeting planners to one destination? Aruba has prepared for this for the last few years, undergoing a half a billion dollars of investment in its resort and meetings facilities and I am confident this will be our day in the sun.” □



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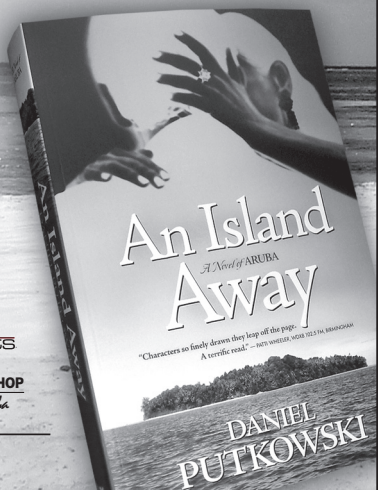
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Emilio Geerman named General Manager for Anabui



Tierra del Sol – Emilio Geerman was just recently named General Manager for Anabui the new Private Residence Club developed by Tierra del Sol Resort, Spa & Country Club. Anabui is a collection of 36 spacious, concierge-serviced,

three-bedroom residences, at the heart of famed Tierra del Sol complete with gourmet cookware and luxury linens serviced in the manner of a fine resort and maintained by a dedicated year-round staff. Geerman will be at the helm of the operation, having

served for the past 10 years as Ventanas' del Mar Food & Beverage Manager and having transitioned to the Anabui Private Residence Club, just recently.

Emilio arrived at the golf course with the Hyatt Regency. He has over the past decade successfully developed the catering and restaurant business of Tierra del Sol until he was asked to undertake a new career challenge with Anabui.

Emilio reports he participated in the exciting training course with the Anabui sales associates and is looking forward to the prospect of running his own resort within a resort, servicing an elite clientele out of a dedicated club house facility, now in



the planning phase.

As previously announced Anabui Private Residence Club is under construction at Tierra del Sol, with the infrastructure and road work planned from January 2009 through October 2009 and the first two buildings scheduled to be built from January 2009 through June 2010. The elegant clubhouse & swimming pool will be constructed from July 2009 through June 2010, with the rest of the Anabui construction on a schedule to be completed by December,

2011.

Director of Sales Sven Ellerkamp reports the deeded, one-tenth ownership private residences offer 28 nights occupancy guaranteed each year and are perfect for Aruba visitors with a desire to own, not just share.

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Bonaire gets Top Honors

BONAIRE - Once again the island of Bonaire has swept top honors while continuing its reign as one of the world's top dive destinations: For the seventh consecutive year, Bonaire has been rated the Top Dive Destination Overall (Caribbean/Atlantic) in Scuba Diving magazine's Readers' Choice Awards 2008. Bonaire also received the #1 rating in eight other Caribbean/Atlantic categories: Top Marine Life, Top Marine Environment, Top Macro Life, Top Shore Diving Destination, Top Destination for Underwater Photography, Top Destination for Beginners, Top Value, and Top Snorkeling.

"This certainly demonstrates that Bonaire is the Diver's Paradise. To have received nine #1 rankings reinforces that Bonaire's continued vigilance and efforts to protect the island's coral reefs are producing a superior dive product and in turn an amazing dive experience for our visitors," said Ronella Croes, Director of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB). She continued, "Such constant diver support clearly indicates the value of conservation and preservation efforts, such as those afforded by the Bonaire National Marine Park. With roots going back as far as 1979, the park set a high benchmark for today's marine environmental standards."

For the Reader's Choice awards, thousands of Scuba Diving subscribers and web users rated their dive experiences on a scale of one to five. Results of the 2008 Awards will be featured in the January/February 2009 issue of Scuba Diving magazine. □



PDVSA's Isla Refinery to Reach Full Capacity in Days



CURACAO - Petroleos de Venezuela SA's Isla refinery on the island of Curacao will return to full capacity during coming days after a shutdown last week, the managing director of the power company supplying the plant said. The 360,000 barrel-a-day facility should restart "over Christmas," Alan Wilson, managing director of Curacao Utilities Co., said today in a telephone interview. The refinery is receiving a "substantial" supply of power and steam after a blackout caused the plant to shut down on Dec. 19, he said. The shutdown was at least the second time this year that the refinery went offline because of a lack of steam and power. Wilson said he didn't have details on which units were still out of service and that the plant is in "recovery mode." Petroleos de Venezuela, the state oil company known as PDVSA, declined to comment through a spokesman. He asked not to be identified, citing company policy.

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PALM BEACH - There is only one Bugaloe on Aruba: it is the hottest place to be cool and the coolest place to be hot. Friends and fun are the main ingredients at the beach bar, but great food, drinks and music get a good second place. The sunsets, the breeze and the turquoise ocean are right at the top as well, of course. Bugaloe is located on De Palm Pier on the beach between the RIU Palace and the Radisson Resort at the Hi-Rise strip: an easy walk from all the major hotels.

People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks,

a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website www.bugaloe.com and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on. The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like? A twice-a-month live breakfast radio show on Fri-

day mornings with a spectacular breakfast buffet will keep you entertained as well.

A hot tip: Bugaloe Beach Bar puts on live bands on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Lotus (YouTube keywords: lotus, bugaloe) and Marisela & Aquarius (YouTube keywords: marisela, confidential, 2008) are playing the stars from the sky. These bands are drawing the crowds, so be there or be square! On those nights the young as well as the young-at-heart are having the time of their lives. Photos of Bugaloe's happy times can be viewed at www.bugaloe.com. Don't forget to put your own movie of you and your friends having a whale of a time at Bugaloe on the web and enjoy being famous, crazy and hilarious. So upload, upload! We are looking forward to seeing you on YouTube or live in action.





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umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a gar-

den full of healthy eats on a **lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar**, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking

to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal ☐

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This photo provided by Crested Butte Mountain Resort shows Todd Robinson of Gunnison, Colo. dressed as Santa Claus while skiing powder snow in the Colorado Rockies at Crested Butte, Colo., the day before Christmas, Wednesday, Dec., 24, 2008. The West Elk range of the Rockies are in the background.

Associated Press

Storm blankets West with snow, ice glazes Midwest

By SANDRA CHERIE
Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — Yet another snowstorm pummeled parts of the West on Friday, snarling post-holiday traffic and darkening lights on Christmas

trees, and freezing rain covered some Midwest highways with a dangerous sheet of ice. Winter storm warnings were issued Friday for parts of Utah, Arizona, New Mexico,

Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and the Dakotas, and a blizzard warning was in effect for the mountains of southwest Colorado.

Continued on Page B3

Retailers slash prices to entice holiday shoppers

By LAUREN SHEPHERD

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - Bargain-hunters hit America's stores early Friday to take advantage of drastic price cuts offered by retailers desperate to get rid of old merchandise and boost their less-than-cheery holiday sales.

Many retailers opened before 6 a.m., offering 50 percent to 75 percent off on toys, furniture, electronics and clothing. Stores were hoping the discounts would entice shoppers to redeem gift cards and use cash from returning unwanted gifts to buy something new.

Laura Hernandez, a 37-year-old nurse, hoped to find a good deal at a Miami-area Wal-Mart on the one present her husband and son had really wanted - a plasma TV.

"When they saw that there was no Christmas gift larger than the Christmas tree, they knew

there was no TV," Hernandez said. "They know Mommy is out early this morning bringing home their new toy."

But consumers who saw plenty of bargains before Christmas still seemed to be spending carefully - meaning even the big discounts may not be enough to salvage one of the most dismal holiday shopping seasons in years. Some were unimpressed with even rock-bottom prices while others were just flat-out returning items for cash. After an early surge, several malls in the New York area were "quieter than expected" on Friday, said Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst at market research firm NPD Group Inc.

The lure of after-Christmas shopping was hurt by the deep discounts stores offered before the holiday.

Continued on Next Page

Poll: Obama is most admired American

WASHINGTON (AP) - President-elect Barack Obama is the man Americans say they admire most in the world, according to a USA Today/Gallup poll published Friday. Thirty two percent of those questioned said Obama was the man they most admired compared with 5 percent for President George W. Bush who came in second. Defeated Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain came in third with 3 percent. Hillary Rodham Clinton leads the list of most admired women with 20 percent, according to the poll. She has held this spot for 13 of the past 16 years, as first lady, then New York senator and now Obama's choice to be secretary of state.

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, unknown in much of the U.S. until she became the Republican party's vice presidential candidate in the November elections, was the second most admired woman with 11 percent. Television



President-elect Barack Obama greets soldiers as they eat Christmas dinner at Marine Corp Base Hawaii in Kailua, Hawaii Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008.

Associated Press

talk show host Oprah Winfrey is third with 8 percent.

The only other time a president-elect has led the poll since Gallup began asking in 1948 was in 1952 when Dwight Eisenhower topped the list. Obama takes office Jan. 20.

The survey of 1,008 adults, taken by landline and cell phone Dec. 12-14, has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percent. □



People leave a JCPenney store with packages less than an hour after the store opened at 5:30 in Associated Press

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People shop for after-Christmas bargains at a JCPenney store shortly after the store opened at 5:30 in the morning Friday, Dec. 26, 2008, in Lawrence, N.J. Shoppers hit the stores early Friday to return unwanted gifts and take advantage of drastic price cuts offered by retailers desperate to get rid of old merchandise and boost their less-than-cheery holiday sales.

Associated Press

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Photo by Diane Keijzer

HOLIDAY SHOPPERS

Continued from Page B1

Gift card sales have also been down, meaning fewer people are returning to the malls with “free money” to spend.

“The last week of December represents about 14 percent of Christmas sales,” said C. Britt Beemer, chairman of America’s Research Group. “You can’t save a season with only one-seventh of the sales to go.”

The holiday season - which typically accounts for 30 percent to 50 percent of a retailer’s annual total sales - has been less than jolly for most retailers. Job cuts, portfolio losses and other economic woes have convinced consumers to cut back on their spending. Meanwhile, strong winter storms during the holiday season kept some would-be shoppers at home.

According to preliminary data from SpendingPulse

- a division of MasterCard Advisors that tracks total sales paid for by credit card, checks and cash - retail sales fell between 5.5 percent and 8 percent during the holiday season compared with last year. Excluding auto and gas sales, they fell 2 percent to 4 percent, according to SpendingPulse.

Sales of women’s clothing dropped nearly 23 percent while men’s clothing sales slipped more than 14 percent. Footwear sales fell 13.5 percent. Sales of electronics and appliances fell even more drastically, dropping almost 27 percent.

More consumers appeared to do their shopping online, particularly in the last two weeks of the season when storms snowed shoppers in. Online sales dipped just 2.3 percent from last year, according to SpendingPulse.

Online retailer Amazon.com

said Friday the 2008 holiday season was its “best ever,” with more than 6.3 million items ordered.

Holiday bestsellers included the Nintendo Wii, Samsung’s 52-inch LCD HDTV, the Apple iPod touch and the Blokus board game. Cohen said Amazon did a great job offering deals and driving customers to its site, adding that “the best possible prices” were frequently on Amazon.com.

A better indicator of how retailers fared will arrive Jan. 8, when major stores report same-store sales, or sales at locations open at least a year, for December.

Retailers, who have been cutting prices all season, offered more deals for after Christmas. Toys R Us said it was cutting prices by 60 percent on some brands. Sears stores were offering doorbuster deals through noon. □

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SNOW BLANKETS

Continued from Page B1

"It's going to be a heck of a storm," said Chris Cuoco, senior forecaster for the National Weather Service in Grand Junction, Colo. "We're expecting significant snowfall in all the mountains of Colorado. Even the valleys are going to see 4-plus inches of snow."

Up to 20 inches of snow was forecast in parts of the Rockies, along with wind gusts of up to 80 mph.

In the Midwest, most streets and highways in the Chicago area were ice-glazed. The Eisenhower Expressway — Interstate 290 — was closed for a time because of the ice, but the temperature was rising above the freezing point by midmorning. The village of Lemont, Ill., shut down all its major intersections.

The full length of the Indiana Toll Road, more than 150 miles, was shut down for about two hours Friday morning because it was "an

entire sheet of ice" with numerous accidents, said state Trooper William Jones. Indiana also closed a 10-mile section of Interstate 69 just north of Fort Wayne.

Utah officials shut down Interstate 84 at the Utah-Idaho state line Friday because of the weather, and some state roads were open only to vehicles with tire chains or four-wheel-drive. Colorado closed at least two mountain pass highways.

Heavy snow and whiteout conditions in the Sierra Nevada on Thursday led authorities to intermittently shut down Interstate 80, the busy main link between northern Nevada and Northern California.

The mountains around Lake Tahoe received about 2 feet of snow, bringing totals at some resorts in the past two weeks to 10 feet.

"This is one of the snowiest Christmas holiday periods I can remember," said Kent Hoopingarner, general

manager at Homewood Mountain Resort.

Elsewhere in the Sierra, an avalanche killed a 21-year-old man Thursday at the Squaw Valley USA ski resort in California. A Utah avalanche killed two people earlier in the week.

In New Mexico, San Juan County got up to 5 inches of snow for its first white Christmas in 11 years, the weather service said.

"We were eating breakfast this morning and it was snowing. It was very Christmasy," said Farmington resident Kim Hamer, who went sledding with her husband and two sons.

Nearly a foot of snow in the Salt Lake City area blacked out about 10,000 customers Thursday morning. Power was also knocked out in parts of Oregon on Thursday, affecting 19,000 customers of Portland General Electric, said PGE spokesman Steve Corson.

Farther north, the weight of



Saul di Pompello digs out from between deep snow banks in front of his restaurant in Troutdale, Ore., Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2008. The Pacific Northwest has been inundated with harsh winter weather recently with a warming trend expected for the weekend.

Associated Press

snow, ice and water over the past week collapsed the roof of a high school in Olympia, Wash.

There was severe water damage but no injuries, fire Lt. Ralph Dunbar said. In eastern Washington, Spokane reached a snowfall total for the month of 46.2 inches, a record for December, said Laurie Nisbet of the weather service.

Snow and ice weren't the only problems. The weather

service confirmed that it was two small tornadoes on Christmas Eve that caused scattered damage in Alabama.

Slippery roads and cold have been blamed for seven deaths this week in Wisconsin; five in Ohio; four each in Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri; two in Kansas, two in Michigan, and one apiece in Illinois, Oklahoma, Iowa, Massachusetts and West Virginia. □



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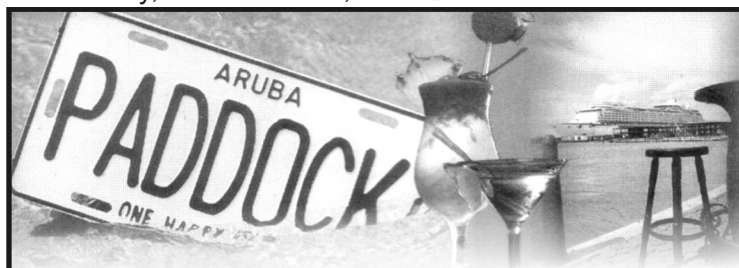
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Federal judges call for higher pay



In this Dec. 12, 2008 file photo, Attorney General Michael Mukasey listens during a news conference in Washington. Mukasey, who retired as a federal judge in 2006 after 18 years, made nearly \$2 million in 21 months at a New York law firm. Federal Judges last received a substantial pay raise in 1991, and in 2009 judges are alone among federal workers, members of Congress included, in not getting a cost-of-living adjustment.

Associated Press

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Earlier this year, Martin Jenkins took what looked like a step down the career ladder. Jenkins traded his lifetime appointment as a federal trial judge for a seat on a California state appeals court. In his new job, Jenkins must periodically face the voters, but he reaped one immediate benefit — a 20 percent jump in his annual salary.

Jenkins' case highlights what Chief Justice John Roberts and many other federal judges have identified as an emerging crisis — the failure to pay judges enough to keep them on the job and lure talented lawyers from private practice to the federal bench.

Not everyone sees it the way Roberts does. Committees in the House and Senate this year voted nearly 30 percent salary hikes for federal judges, but neither house of Congress acted on the measure.

Judges last received a substantial pay raise in 1991, although they have been given increases designed to keep pace with inflation in most years since then.

For 2009, though, judges are alone among federal workers — members of Congress included — in not getting a cost-of-living adjustment. Lawmakers get their COLA (cost-of-living allowance) automatically — \$4,700 for 2009 — but they refused to authorize the same 2.8 percent bump for judges.

"Federal judges are currently under-compensated because Congress has repeatedly failed to adjust judicial salaries in response to inflation," said James C. Duff, director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. "By its failure to do so once again, Congress only exacerbates a long-standing problem it must someday address." Duff acknowledged that the current economic turmoil makes the judges' case

harder. After all, federal trial judges are paid \$169,300 a year, have lifetime job security and can retire at full salary at age 65 if they have 15 years in the job. Appellate judges make more, ranging up to Roberts' salary of \$217,400.

But those salaries, large as they are, are much smaller than what judges' peers make in private practice. Attorney General-designate Eric Holder said his partnership at the law firm of Covington & Burling earned him \$2.1 million this year. Attorney General Michael Mukasey, who retired as a federal judge in 2006 after 18 years, made nearly \$2 million in 21 months at a New York law firm.

Timothy Lewis resigned from the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia in 1999 at the age of 44, after eight years as a federal judge. Money was a consideration.

"It's almost embarrassing to say you can't survive on \$170,000 or \$180,000, whatever it was that I was being paid," said Lewis, now in private practice in Washington. "That's not true, of course. But it just did not seem conducive to the lifestyle I was trying to provide for my children in private schools and college tuitions, which I'm paying now." Appellate judges made \$145,000 in 1999.

Yet even with the wide gap in pay between judgeships and private practice, only a handful of judges are leaving before they are eligible for retirement. In the past two years, seven judges younger than 65 quit. Of those, Mark Filip was appointed deputy attorney general of the United States. Another judge, Edward Nottingham, resigned amid an ethics controversy. □

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Ninth body found at site of Santa-suit killings

By **CHRISTINA HOAG**
Associated Press Writer

COVINA, Calif. — A ninth body was found Friday morning at the charred site of a Christmas Eve massacre where a recently divorced man dressed as Santa shot indiscriminately at partygoers and destroyed his former in-laws' house with a homemade blowtorch.

The attacker, Bruce Pardo, reached a Dec. 18 settlement with his ex-wife, who along with her parents was believed to be among the dead. His lawyer and a fellow church usher were among those who said they had never seen anything to indicate he was capable of such a brutal crime.

Pardo's attorney, Stanley Silver, said his client seemed cheerful when he left a message two days before the shooting and was trying to pay \$10,000 to finalize the divorce proceedings.

"All of my dealings with him were always pleasant and cheerful," Silver said. "I'd never encountered him when he was ... angry or unpleasant at all."

Pardo left the scene of the killings and was found dead Thursday, of a single bullet to the head, at his brother's house.

The body of his ninth victim was found Friday morning when investigators resumed searching what was left of the two-story home on a cul-de-sac in Covina, 25 miles east of Los Angeles.

Eight bodies were recovered Thursday from the destroyed house; it was not yet known where the gunfire or the flames

killed them. None of the dead or missing has been identified. The bloodbath began about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday when an 8-year-old girl attending a Christmas Eve party answered a knock at the door. A man dressed as Santa and carrying what appeared to a present pulled out a handgun and shot her in the face, then began shooting indiscriminately as partygoers tried to flee.

The gift-wrapped box Pardo was carrying actually contained a pressurized homemade device he used to spray a liquid that quickly sent the house up in flames. Police said Pardo had recently worked in the aerospace industry.

Pardo, 45, had no criminal record and no history of violence, according to police, but he was angry following last week's settlement of his divorce

after a short marriage.

A court summary of the divorce case shows that Sylvia Pardo filed for a dissolution of marriage on March 24, 2008. The summary indicates she and Bruce Pardo reached a settlement on Dec. 18 and were separated after about two years of marriage.

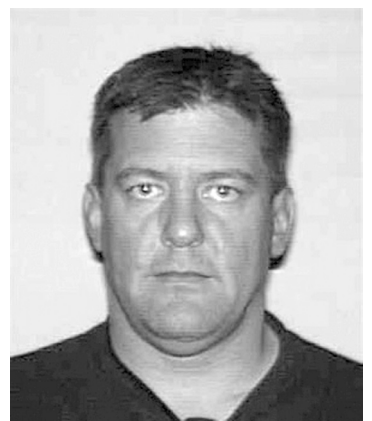
Court documents show Sylvia Pardo got the couple's dog, the wedding ring and \$10,000 in the settlement agreement, while he got the house. In June, the court ordered Bruce Pardo to pay \$1,785 a month in spousal support and put him on a payment plan of \$450 a month for \$3,570 that was unpaid.

Pardo's attorney said the man had trouble making the payments after he lost his job in July, but spousal support was waived in the settlement signed earlier this month.

Investigators seeking further information about Pardo's motives have begun searching his home in the suburban Los Angeles community of Montrose.

Christmas lights decorated the roof of Pardo's home and plastic nutcracker soldiers and striped candy canes poked out of the neatly trimmed lawn. A black Cadillac Escalade and a white Hummer were parked in the driveway.

Neighbors frequently saw Pardo working on his lawn and walking his dog, a big, brown Akita. Pardo served regularly as an usher at evening Mass



Bruce Jeffrey Pardo is seen in an undated photo provided Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008, by the Covina, Calif. Police Department.

Associated Press

at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Montrose, the Los Angeles Times reported. □

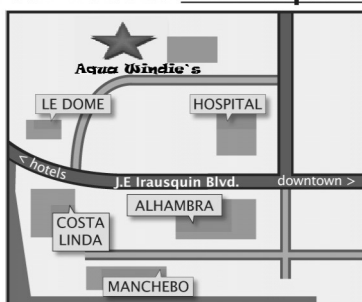


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Police: Mexican beauty queen's boyfriend was drug kingpin

By ARTURO PEREZ
Associated Press Writer
GUADALAJARA, Mexico — A Mexican beauty queen arrested in a truck filled with weapons was dating a suspected leader in the powerful Juarez drug cartel,

The 2008 beauty queen of the drug-plagued state of Sinaloa, Laura Zuniga, center, is shown to the press with other unidentified suspects after she was detained with guns and large amounts of cash in the city of Zapopan, Mexico, Tuesday Dec. 23, 2008. Zuniga has been arrested after she was found riding with suspected gang members in a truck filled with weapons and and some \$53,300 in U.S. currency.

Associated Press

police said Wednesday. The boyfriend of Miss Sinaloa Laura Zuniga is Angel Orlando Garcia Urquiza, a top operative in the Ciudad Juarez-based cartel, which at one point was considered Mexico's largest drug ring, said Jalisco Public Security Secretary Luis Carlos Najera. The couple was traveling with six alleged bodyguards in Zapopan, outside the colonial city of Guadalajara, when soldiers stopped their two trucks at a military checkpoint on Monday, police said. Inside, authorities found a large stash of weapons, ammunition and \$53,300 in U.S. currency. The alleged relationship between Garcia and Mexico's well-known reigning beauty

queen shows how deep powerful drug gangs have penetrated society, stretching well beyond bribing police and officials. Mexican media report that traffickers with their visible wealth often have their pick of women in states like Sinaloa, where Zuniga is from and the home of the cartel of the same name. The popular musical genre "Narco-corridos" glorifies traffickers' exploits and gangs often have preferred bands who play their private parties. A number of Mexican musicians linked to cartels have been murdered in recent years. Zuniga won the Miss Sinaloa pageant this year. She placed third in the Miss Mexico contest, whose winner competes for the Miss Universe title, and was crowned Miss HispanoAmericana, beating out contestants across Latin America. She was expected to represent Mexico in an international contest in January. Pageant organizers say they are awaiting the results of the investigation before deciding whether to strip her of her crowns. Garcia's brother, Ricardo, was arrested in 2005 and police said he was responsible for 20 percent of Mexican narcotics sold on U.S. streets at the time. He reportedly earned nearly \$1 billion a month smuggling Colombian cocaine and marijuana into the United states through corridors near Ciudad Juarez, which lies across the border from El Paso, Texas. □

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Pakistan moves troops toward Indian border

By **SEBASTIAN ABBOT**
Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) - Pakistan began moving thousands of troops to the Indian border Friday, intelligence officials said, sharply raising tensions triggered by the Mumbai terror attacks.

India has blamed Pakistani-based militants for last month's siege on its financial capital, which killed 164 people and has provoked an increasingly bitter war of words between nuclear-armed neighbors that have fought three wars in 60 years. The troops headed to the Indian border were being diverted away from tribal areas near Afghanistan, officials said, and the move was expected to frustrate the United States, which has been pushing Pakistan to step up its fight against al-Qaida and Taliban militants near the Afghan border.

Two intelligence officials said the army's 14th Division was being redeployed to the towns of Kasur and Sialkot, close to the Indian border. They said some 20,000 troops were on the move. Earlier Friday, a security official said all troop leave had been canceled.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

Both countries have said they want to avoid military conflict over the attacks. But India has not ruled out the use of force as

it presses its neighbor to crack down on the Pakistani-based terrorist group it blames for the attack.

Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has promised to respond aggressively if attacked but reassured India Friday that Pakistan would not strike first.

"We will not take any action on our own," Gilani told reporters. "There will be no aggression from our side."

Meanwhile, Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee accused Pakistan of trying to divert attention away from its struggle to rein in homegrown terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba, which Delhi accuses of masterminding the Mumbai attacks.

"They should concentrate on the real issue: how to fight against terrorists and how to fight against and bring to book the perpetrators of (the) Bombay terrorist attack," he said.

Pakistan has arrested several senior members of the banned group and cracked down on a charity the U.S. and UN say was a front for Lashkar. India has demanded greater action, but Pakistan says it needs to share evidence backing up its claims.

Mukherjee responded Friday by saying India had provided more than enough evidence about the militants, who infiltrated Mumbai by sea.

"We have indicated to them that there are ample evidences from the log book of the captured ship, from the information available from satellite telephones and various others that elements from Pakistan were responsible for this attack," Mukherjee told reporters.

Earlier, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met Friday with the chiefs of the army, navy and air force to discuss "the prevailing security situation," according to an official statement.

An Associated Press reporter in Dera Ismail Khan, a district that borders Pakistan's militant-infested South Waziristan tribal area, said he saw around 40 trucks loaded with soldiers heading away from the Afghan border Friday.

A senior security official confirmed that soldiers were being moved out of the border area, but said it was "a limited number from areas where they were not engaged in any operation."

He declined further comment and asked his name not be used, citing the sensitivity of the situation.

The White House said it was discussing the reported troop movements with U.S. embassies in the region and was urging both countries to cooperate in investigating the attacks and fighting terrorism.

"We hope that both sides will



Indian Border Security Force (BSF) soldiers keep vigil at the western sector of India-Pakistan international border at Ranjitpura village, 200 kilometers (125 miles) from Bikaner, Rajasthan state, India, Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008. Pakistan began moving thousands of troops away from the Afghan border toward India on Friday amid tensions following the Mumbai attacks, intelligence officials said.

avoid taking steps that will unnecessarily raise tensions during these already tense times," said White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe.

Analysts said the redeployment was likely meant as a warning to India not to launch missile strikes against militant targets on its territory, a response that some have speculated is possible.

"It is a message to India that if you think you can get away with strikes, you are sadly mistaken," said Talat Masood, a retired general and military analyst based in Islamabad.

Pakistan and India have fought three wars since their

independence from Britain in 1947, two over Kashmir, a Muslim majority region in the Himalayas claimed by both countries.

They came close to a fourth after suspected Pakistani militants attacked India's parliament in 2001. Both countries massed hundreds of thousands of troops to the disputed Kashmir region, but tensions cooled after intensive international diplomacy.

News of the buildup comes as Indian officials say militant activity in Indian Kashmir has fallen to its lowest levels since an anti-India militant movement began there in 1989. □



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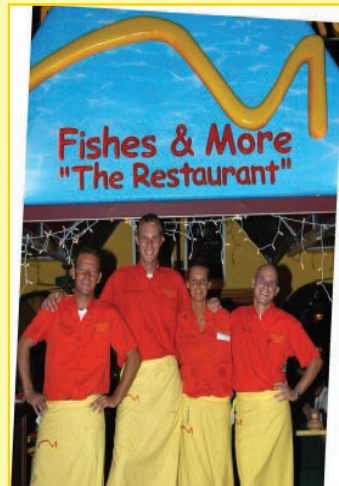
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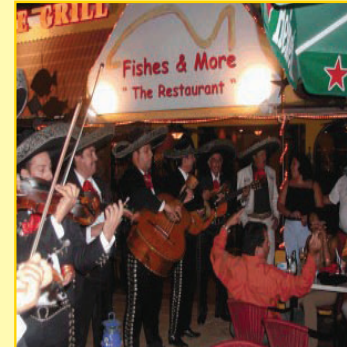
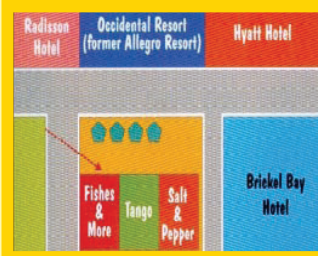


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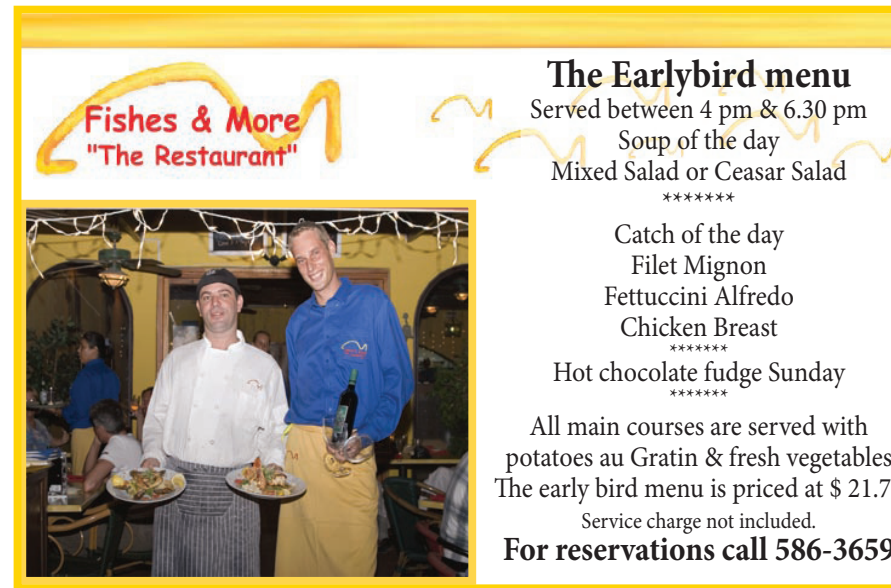
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NBA Roundup

Lakers end Celtics record winning run

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The Los Angeles Lakers capitalized on their first chance to get some revenge for last year's NBA finals defeat, beating Boston 92-83 on Thursday to end the Celtics' franchise-record winning streak at 19 games.

Kobe Bryant had 27 points and nine rebounds and Pau Gasol scored seven of his 20 points in the final 3 minutes in the Christmas Day showdown.

The Celtics dropped to 27-3, while the Lakers improved to 24-5 with their 12th straight home victory. They're 15-1 at home overall.

The victory was the 1,000th for Phil Jackson, enabling him to become the sixth coach in NBA history to reach that milestone. The 63-year-old has a career record of 1,000-423 in 17-plus seasons as coach of the Chicago Bulls and Lakers.

Magic 88, Hornets 68

In Orlando, Florida, the Southeast Division-leading Orlando notched a sixth straight victory by thumping New Orleans.

Hedo Turkoglu scored 20 points, and Dwight Howard had 12 points and 15 rebounds for the Magic.

Hornets star Chris Paul's NBA-record steals streak ended at 108 games.

Spurs 91, Suns 90

In Phoenix, Roger Mason hit a 3-pointer from the corner at the buzzer to give San Antonio a thrilling win over Phoenix.

It was the Spurs' fourth straight victory.

Phoenix's Shaquille O'Neal become the only player other than Wilt Chamberlain to miss 5,000 career free throws, while Steve Nash had eight assists to become the 13th NBA player to reach 7,000 for his career.

Mavericks 102, Trail Blazers 94

In Portland, Oregon, Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 of his 30 points



Los Angeles Lakers' Pau Gasol, Lamar Odom, and Kobe Bryant celebrate after defeating the Boston Celtics 92-83 in an NBA basketball game on Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

in the first half as Dallas ended Portland's usual Christmas joy. The Trail Blazers had won their previous 13 straight Christmas games.

Cavaliers 93, Wizards 89

In Cleveland, the home team was forced to work harder than expected to see off lowly Washington and maintain its perfect home record this season.

Mo Williams had 24 points, and Cleveland needed 11 straight points in the final 1:33 to see off the Wizards, who have lost eight straight. □

Army hires Cal Poly's Ellerson as football coach

WEST POINT, N.Y. - Cal Poly's Rich Ellerson was hired as Army's football coach Friday, joining a team that hasn't had a winning record since 1996.

He replaces Stan Brock, who was fired Dec. 12 after a pair of 3-9 seasons. This season concluded with a 34-0 loss to Navy.

Under Ellerson, Cal Poly made it to the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs four times and was ranked as high as No. 3 this season. He was 56-34 in his eight years at Cal Poly.

Ellerson was defensive coordinator at Arizona from 1997 to 2000. His nearly 30 years of college coaching includes a stint as head coach at Southern Utah.

"I will never receive, nor have I ever received a finer compliment professionally or personally than to be entrusted with the Army football program at this point in its history," Ellerson said in a statement.

Ellerson grew up with Army football — his father and two brothers were West Point graduates. His brother John was captain of the 1962 team that went 6-4.

"Rich has the experience we need," West Point Superintendent Lt. Gen. Franklin Hagenbeck said. "An award and title-winning head coach who runs the option, Rich also has extensive ties to West Point and the Army."

Athletic director Kevin Anderson said he's long admired Ellerson's work with the triple option at Cal Poly.

"One of our primary goals of the search was to find someone capable of turning around our program immediately and we are confident Rich is the perfect individual to accomplish that," he said. Brock was fired days after the Black Knights were routed by Navy. Brock, a former New Orleans Saints offensive lineman, was Army's offensive line coach for three years before replacing Bobby Ross in early 2007. □

Panthers DTs Lewis doubtful, Kemoeatu questionable

By MIKE CRANSTON

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The Carolina Panthers could be without both starting defensive tackles for Sunday's game at New Orleans, perhaps enticing the pass-happy Saints to run the ball.

Damione Lewis missed practice for a third straight day Friday with a shoulder injury and was listed as doubtful. Maake Kemoeatu practiced on a limited basis and is questionable with a sprained right ankle that kept him out of last week's loss to the New York Giants.

If they can't play, Darwin Walker is expected to start at one tackle spot.

The other position would be filled

either by rookie Nick Hayden or J'Vonne Parker. Hayden was on Carolina's practice squad last week. Parker was signed Tuesday off Atlanta's practice squad.

Lewis and Kemoeatu are major factors in Carolina's run defense. With Kemoeatu sidelined last Sunday and Lewis leaving in the fourth quarter, the Giants rushed for 301 yards in a 34-28 overtime win. The Saints, however, are primarily a passing team. Drew Brees needs 402 yards passing Sunday to break Dan Marino's single-season record of 5,084.

"They're capable of running the ball.

They have a big offensive line,"

Panthers coach John Fox said. "They might try to run it.

If I was watching last week's tape I might, too."

The injuries come as the Panthers (11-4) prepare for a critical game. They need to beat the Saints (8-7) to guarantee the No. 2 seed in the NFC, a first-round bye in the playoffs, and a second-round home game. A loss, combined with an Atlanta win over St. Louis, would drop the Panthers to the No. 5 seed and would force them to play at Arizona in the first round next week.

Receiver Muhsin Muhammad (foot) and tight end Jeff King (knee) practiced Friday and are listed as probable. □

Jones wants it known: Cowboys coaches 'in place'

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas — Wade Phillips will be back as coach of the Dallas Cowboys next season, and Jason Garrett will remain in charge of the offense, regardless of whether the team makes the playoffs, club owner Jerry Jones said Friday.

And he said it vehemently. "The coaches are in place. I've said that. How can I be any clearer?" Jones said. "Look, I've said that our coaching staff, as far as I'm concerned, is in place. I just want to make the statement rather than answer questions, because your questions imply certain things that I don't want to imply.

"I'm saying that when I look

at where we are coaching staff-wise and when I look at where we are personnel wise, I see a team that is in place to compete for several years."

Still, the questions continued because this team that went 13-3 last season and owned the No. 1 seed in the NFC is now 9-6 and trying to grab the last available wild-card into this season's playoffs. The Cowboys will get it with a win Sunday in Philadelphia. If they lose, there's been speculation that Jones would fire Phillips. There's long been speculation that Phillips might be pushed aside, and Garrett promoted from offensive coordinator, next season anyway as Dallas moves into a new

\$1.1 billion, 100,000-seat stadium.

"I'd like to go in that new stadium with a Super Bowl win," Jones said.

But what if they don't make the playoffs? Could things change then?

"Look, can y'all not understand statements?" Jones said. "What the (expletive) is going on here? Really. I really don't understand what is going on. The coaching staff is in place. The coaching staff is in place. The building is here. You want to ask the question, what if it blows down?" □



Baltimore Ravens safety Ed Reed (20) intercepts a Dallas Cowboys pass in the first quarter in their NFL football game on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008, in Irving, Texas. Defending for the Cowboys is Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Roy Williams (11).

Associated Press

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Calendar Period: December 2008 - January 2009

week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1Bdr Supreme,OceanFront -US\$26,000	week#51 - La Cabana - Studio R#238bPoolOceanviewUS\$7,000	week# 50 - Paradise Beach- 1Bdr R#306,GardenView! -US\$6,500
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1Bdr Supreme,OceanFront US\$35,000	PlatinumPl. W#51 Marriott Surf. 2Bdr, Oceanview-US\$45,000	week# 50-Paradise Beach 2BTH. R#217,PoolOcean- US\$12,000
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1Bdr RoyalClubGrandLe.-US\$30,000	PlatinumPl. W#52 Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000	week# 1- Paradise Beach-1Bdr R#227,OceanFront- US\$15,000
Week#1-Costa Linda - 2 Bdr R#2031 PoolOcean- US\$25,000	FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 1Bdr,Oceanview- US\$12,000	week# 50-51 - Divi Village - Std R#3214 GV- US\$5,500 p/week
week#50 -La Cabana - 1 Bdr R#137c - OceanView-US\$6,000	FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, Oceanview -US\$ 20,000	week#52 -DiviPhoenix - studio R#110-OceanFront-US\$11,000
Week#51-Divi Phoenix - 1 Bdr R#1401, OceanView - US\$13,500	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanView-US\$18,000	week# 1- DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr. R#206,OceanFront- US\$20,000
week#50 & 51 La Cabana-2 Bdr. R#414,PoolOcean US\$30,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr,OceanFront-US\$30,000	week# 51-CasaDelMar aw-1Bdr. R#1329,PoolView US\$10,000
week#51-La Cabana - studio R#416b,PoolOcean-US\$7,500	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanView-US\$26,000	week# 50 - RIU Palace - 1Bdr R#566,Oceanview-US\$6,000
week#50-La Cabana - 1Bdr R#227a-OceanView- US\$5,500	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000	week#1 - Riu Palace - 2Bdr R#269-OceanFront- US\$28,000
week#50-La Cabana -1Bdr R#138c-PoolOcean-US\$6,000	week# 50 - Renaissance - 1Bdr. R#2512,Gardenview-US\$9,000	week#48 - Playa Linda -1Bdr R#154-Oceanview-US\$10,000
week#52-La Cabana- 1Bdr R#118a-PoolOcean- US\$12,000	week# 47 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2322,OceanView- US\$5,000	week#48-DiviDutchVillage -2Bdr R#76 - PoolView - US\$12,000
Floating w#2-17 Occidental Gra. 1Bdr/dlx-PoolOcean-US\$13,000	week# 2 - Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#2033,PoolOcean- US\$26,000	week# 1-DiviLinks-2Bdr penth. Duplex,Poolview - US\$45,000
Floating w#18-50-Occidental Gr. JuniorS-PoolOcean-US\$11,000	week# 1 & 2 Renaissance-1 Bdr. R#2508,Gardenv.-US\$9,000p.w.	week# 52 - DiviLinks - 1Bdr. R#2206,PoolOcean-US\$15,000
Floating-18-26/36-50-Occidental 1Bdr/dlx,PoolOcean-US\$10,000	week# 51 - Renaissance -1 Bdr. R#2311,PoolOcean- US\$12,000	week# 50 & 51-DiviLinks -1 Bdr. R#4226,Poolview-US\$16,000pw
Floating W# 1-17-Occidental Gr. studio,PoolOceanv-US\$9,000	week# 51-Aruban Resort- 1 Bdr. R#4584g, PoolView - US\$9,475	week# 52 & 1- DiviLinks - 1Bdr R#4226,PoolV.- US\$17,000pw
Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,Oceanview- US\$23,000	week#51&52.ArubanResort-1Br R#4586, PoolView-US\$9,475pw	week# 2 & 3-DiviLinks- 1 Bdr R#4226,PoolV.- US\$15,000p.w
Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,Gardenview- US\$20,000	week# 1 & 2,ArubanResort-1Bdr R#4585,Poolview- US\$8,475pw	week# 49-Renaissance-1Bdrdlx R#2349,OceanFront,US\$10,000
Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 3Bdr,Oceanview- US\$30,000	week# 2,Aruban Resort-1 Bdr. R#4584 ,PoolView-US\$.8,475	week#50-ParadiseBeach-1Bdr. R#101,PoolOcean- US\$10,000
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 3Bdr,Oceanview- US\$50,000	week# 51,Aruban Resort - 1 Bdr R#3525, PoolView - US\$9,475	week# 50&51-Costa Linda-2Bdr R#3007,PoolOcean-US\$50,000
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide -US\$33,000	week#52,Aruban Resort-1Bdr. R# 4522,PoolView- US\$9,475	week#2-ParadiseBeach-2Bdr R#207,PoolOcean - US\$15,000
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanView US\$30,000	week#49&50,ArubanResort-2Bdr R#1552PoolView-US\$12,500pw	week# 3&4 ParadiseBeach-1Br R#101,P.Ocean-US\$12,000pw
PlatiPl.W#51&52.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$140,000	week#51&52,ArubanResort-2Br. R#1552PoolView US\$13,500pw	week#49 -Renaissance-1Bdr R#2144,Gardenview US\$4,000
PlatiPl.W#51&52.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanView-US\$125,000	week#49&50,ArubanResort-1Br. R#1515,PoolView - US\$14,000	week#1through52AmsterDM-2B R#213,P.Ocean - US\$520,000
	week# 52,Devi Link-1Bdr. R#2206,PoolOcean-US\$18,000	week#18-50.DiviVillage-1Bdr R#2E,Poolview-US\$10,000

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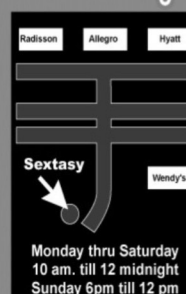
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Senadora Córdoba pedirá Uribe acepte ayuda internacional para liberaciones



BOGOTA- Una senadora opositora indicó el jueves que discutirá con el presidente Alvaro Uribe la eventual participación de delegados de Venezuela, Argentina y Ecuador en la liberación de seis rehenes anunciada por las FARC. La senadora Piedad Córdoba, del opositor Partido Liberal, fue mencionada por las FARC en un comunicado conocido el domingo como la cabeza del grupo al cual los rebeldes ofrecieron entregarle cuatro policías, un militar, un ex gobernador

y un ex diputado en poder de los insurgentes desde hace al menos seis años. Las rebeldes Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) no indicaron en su nota la fecha o lugar de esa liberación, que aseguraron serían puntos a definir, ni exigieron la presencia de delegados internacionales pero Uribe expuso que se oponía a cualquier acompañamiento internacional en esa acción. La senadora ha dicho que las liberaciones podrían producirse en los primeros

días de enero debido a que calculaba que tomaría algún tiempo finiquitar detalles como la seguridad del operativo.

“El presidente (Uribe) es un presidente muy respetado” por sus colegas, dijo Córdoba en declaraciones a radio Caracol.

Uribe “tiene en este momento excelentes relaciones con el presidente (de Venezuela, Hugo) Chávez, excelentes relaciones con la presidente de Argentina (Cristina Fernández) y es un momento para terminar de mejorar también, si se quiere, el clima que existe entre Ecuador y Colombia”, agregó la legisladora, quien ha dicho esperar reunirse con Uribe para tratar el asunto, aunque no dio la fecha de esa cita.

Uribe ha dicho que su gobierno, como también ha hecho anteriormente, autorizará y garantizará la seguridad en la operación del Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja (CICR).

Colombia y Ecuador rompieron relaciones diplomáticas el 3 de marzo, dos días después de un operativo militar

colombiano en territorio del vecino país en el que murió Raúl Reyes, uno de los siete jefes de las FARC. □



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